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Next Meeting: December 3, 2003

10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center - Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of November 5, 2003, Meeting
10:00 a.m.

Present: Greg Bodrie, Kathleen Clegg, Patt Clement, Cheryl Ervin, Janice Fialka, Elaine High, Ric Hogerheide, Jill Jacobs, Patricia Keller, Shari Krishnan, Jim Kubiako, Paul Kubicek, Lois Lofton-Doniver, Patricia MacQuarrie (for Randall VanGasse), Peggy McNeilly, Pam Mish, Bob Opsommer (for Anne Richardson), Sue Rabidoux, Debs Roush, Deb Russell, Steve Schwartz, Jeff Siegel, Larry Simpson, Don Trap
Ex-Officio members: Lee Martin, Rosanne Renauer, Michele Robinson, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Pansy Coleman, Sheri Falvay, Nancy Jackson (resigned), Mark Larson, Debbie Todd, Colette Ward

OSE/EIS Staff: David Brock, Peggy Dutcher, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Joanne Winkelman

Guests: Sandi Laham, Marge Joslin, Linda Keway, Greg Molenda, Jerry Oermann, Roberta Perconti, Phyllis Rebori, Jon Wurdock

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Simpson.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the November 5, 2003, meeting was considered. Information Item C, Proposed Changes to “Technical Assistance for Frequently Asked Questions” is postponed to December. Deb Russell moved, seconded by Ric Hogerheide, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the October 1, 2003, meeting were considered. Dr. Thompson requested the minutes reflect that she was called to a meeting with a representative of the Governor’s office, not with the Governor’s cabinet. Ric Hogerheide moved, seconded by Jeff Siegel, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Chairperson's Report – Larry Simpson

A. Advocacy

These are dire economic times. Districts facing budget deficits are looking for ways to get more money out of their budgets and in Flint, the special education money is being looked at. When situations like these arise, people must be reminded that “all students” really does mean all students. Advocacy is never passive. As finances shrink, it is necessary to actively advocate for the students that SEAC members represent.

State Reports – Jacquelyn Thompson

A. Board of Education

Reginald Turner replaced Sharon Gire on the Board. Ms. Gire was appointed by the Governor last spring to be the director of the Office of Services to the Aging.

The Board will meet on the second Tuesday of each month for 2004.

B. Department of Education

The US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will visit the Department the week of November 17 as part of the data verification visits that all states are going through. They will spend three to five days reviewing Part C general supervision, Part B general supervision, the state assessment system, the OSE/EIS data collection system, and other specific targeted areas. A small steering committee participated in a conference call with OSEP recently as part of the preliminary preparation. SEAC was represented on the call.

Beginning in December, the Department will provide a handout updating SEAC on various mandated and state improvement activities occurring at the Department. Transition, Continuous Improvement Focused Monitoring, state schools, and stakeholder groups will be included.

The stakeholder group on universal education will soon begin work updating the Board's 10-year-old inclusion policy, and another group will work on a seclusion and restraint policy. There is an additional referent group working on changing our two-tier due process system to a one-tier magistrate system. SEAC is represented on these groups.

The Department will undergo reorganization pending approval by the Department of Management and Budget. Per Governor Granholm's executive directive, MEAP will be moved back into the Department of Education. Ed Roeber will return to be the director of that office. Additionally, the creation of an Office of Early Childhood and Family Services that will house Early On for Birth to Three services is anticipated. Finally, an Office of School Improvement will be created, integrating Title I and Curriculum operations.

Information Items

A. Design for Results Presentation – Debs Roush and Pam Mish

Pam explained the process that each Design for Results team uses. Debs presented a pharmaceutical development analogy to the Design for Results process and the nature of each group's work.

B. Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD) Procedures – Beth Steenwyk, Deputy Director, OSE/EIS

At the invitation of the General Supervision subcommittee, Beth offered further clarification on the proposed procedures.

Beth explained the residential living option is still available; however, the language was removed because the document is meant to reflect the IEP process and living arrangement is outside the IEP. Shari Krishnan asked where to direct people to assure them that the residential living option is still available. Beth mentioned the program design used internally at MSD could be condensed and made public to serve that purpose. Shari also raised a concern that the living situation of students at MSD may need to be part of the IEP because a student's living arrangement is related to their extracurricular social development. Beth explained that it is cleaner to leave it out of the IEP and address it in another way, but she would look to SEAC for input on the issue. Discussion followed.

A licensed mental health counselor working at MSD and funded by federal dollars is providing mental health services to MSD students. MSD does not currently have a social worker employed, as a highly qualified applicant fluent in American Sign Language has not been found. Greg Bodrie asked why it must be a licensed mental health counselor. Beth explained it is her understanding that someone who is licensed must provide services. It was clarified that the licensed mental health counselor is not a replacement for a social worker. Discussion followed.

C. New Senate Bill 1248 on Highly Qualified Teachers – Joanne Winkelman, Policy Coordinator, OSE/EIS

The language in the new Senate bill is not the same as what David Brock presented at last month's meeting. According to the bill, in order to be highly qualified, a teacher must possess a bachelor's degree, obtain full state certification as a special education teacher, and demonstrate knowledge of special education and the teaching skills necessary to teach children with disabilities. Joanne then explained the further qualifications required for new teachers and for veteran teachers, and exceptions. The deadline to meet these qualifications is the end of the 2006-07 school year. Discussion followed.

Action Items

A. SEAC Position – Support for Intermediate School Districts (ISD/RESA)

Don Trap moved, seconded by Kathy Clegg, to approve the advice as written and send it to the State Board. The motion carried.

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education — Mark Larson - None

Michigan Department of Community Health — Doug Nurenberg - None

Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services — Rosanne Renauer – Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) in the midst of an interagency initiative with the Family Independence Agency (FIA). Together, this quarter they are holding six different trainings around the state designed to share information between MRS and the FIA. The desired result is to prevent students in the juvenile justice system from being overlooked in transition planning.

Family Independence Agency — Lee Martin - None

Committee Reports

A. Secondary Transition – Larry Simpson

Larry spoke with Otisteen Blair, FIA, and Glenda Williams, Educators' Association for Adjudicated Youth, about collecting data on students in the juvenile system. The subcommittee will continue to investigate the issue because as some questions are answered, more are discovered. Larry estimated it would be approximately one more month before the subcommittee is ready to present to the committee of the whole. Both Glenda and Otisteen have been invited to attend the secondary transition subcommittee meetings in December to help finish the work.

B. School Age

The School Age Subcommittee is preparing a response to the SBE request for recommendations about the impact of NCLB on students with disabilities. The response will be ready for the SEAC Committee of the Whole in January.

In addition, the subcommittee has a great interest in the Universal Education referent group led by Jacque Thompson. SEAC will be represented.

C. General Supervision

The subcommittee will further discuss the MSD recommendations. Last month, the subcommittee reviewed the complaint timeline report, which was included in this month's mailing.

Member Issues

Shari Krishnan mentioned that Council for Exceptional Children's Yes I Can award packets are at each SEAC member's seat.

Future Agenda Items:

Larry Simpson expressed a desire to address "Technology 101 – how do you comment online?" and other "netiquette" items.

Debs Roush, seconded by Ric Hoyerheide, moved to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to subcommittee meetings.

Amanda Whitehead
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of November 5, 2003, Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: David Brock, Ric Hogerheide, Shari Krishnan, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Pam Mish, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Debs Roush, Larry Simpson, Beth Steenwyk, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Patt Clement, Randall VanGasse

Review of Today's Agenda

Debs and Pam will present a simplified explanation of the Design for Results process followed by an opportunity for the committee to ask questions.

Joanne Winkelman will attend the committee of the whole to present the newly released Senate bill on IDEA, specifically highly qualified teachers.

State Department Report

Dr. Thompson's State Department Report will forecast the reorganization at the Department of Education, pending approval of the Department of Management and Budget. Field Services and School Excellence will be merged to form a new office. MEAP is returning to the Department. Ed Roeber will return to be the director of that office. The week of November 17 is the OSEP visit. Preparation has been going on for that visit since summer. Reginald Turner replaced Sharon Gire on the State Board of Education.

Dr. Thompson reported that special education funds are being examined due to the budget crisis. There may be a need for advocacy to prevent special education funds being used for other purposes in Michigan, which has already occurred in other states. Shari Krishnan suggested a lunch presentation by someone from the Department outlining how the state allocates its funds, so SEAC members can better advocate.

Jacquelyn mentioned several referent groups are currently meeting: one on the magistrate system, one on seclusion and restraints, and one on universal education. It was decided that for future meetings, the Department would provide a list of mandated activities being worked to SEAC.

Subcommittee Reports

B. General Supervision

Beth Steenwyk is present to address concerns outlined in the information item provided by the General Supervision subcommittee with the proposed MSD procedures.

C. School Age

The school age subcommittee spent most of their October meeting in organizational activities. They plan to have the NCLB concerns ready to present to the Board in January.

D. Secondary Transition

The secondary transition subcommittee is examining youth in the corrections system and plans to finish this task in December. Otisteen Blair and Glenda Williams will attend the subcommittee meeting in December as resources to this work.

Future Agenda Development

Larry Simpson would like to hold a “Technology 101” presentation during an upcoming lunch session to assist any SEAC members that may have questions about how SEAC uses technology.